



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P.A. Graef et al.

Attorney Docket No.: WEYE115634

Application No.: 09/620,953

Group Art Unit: 3761

Filed: July 21, 2000

Examiner: D. Ruhl

Title: ABSORBENT ARTICLE CONTAINING
UNITARY STRATIFIED COMPOSITE

RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 5

Seattle, Washington 98101

January 31, 2002

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In response to the Examiner's non-final action dated July 31, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below. Pursuant to the Request for Extension of Time enclosed herewith, the time period for response has been extended three (3) months, to expire January 31, 2002.

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 34, to read as follows:

al Although not to be construed as a limitation, other examples of pretreating fibers include the application of fire retardants to the fibers, or treatments with surfactants or other liquids, such as water or solvents, which modify the surface of the fibers. See, for example, U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/669,406, now U.S. Patent No. 5,837,627, filed July 3, 1996, and entitled "Fibrous Web Having Improved Strength and Method of Making the Same." Still other pretreatments include exposure to or incorporation of antimicrobials, pigments, and densification or softening agents. Fibers pretreated with other chemicals, such as thermoplastic and thermosetting resins, also may be used. Combinations of pretreatments also may be employed. Absorbent webs may also be similarly treated after web formation.

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